AID from UK

*270. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UK Government has announced a new aid package of Rs. 2,000 crores for India over the next five years which would be used mainly for improving the country's health programmes and access of the poor to healthcare;

(b) whether any concrete programme of action plan for its use has been considered;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether members of a large British Healthcare Mission, during visit to India have shown keenness to expand into the Indian market and form joint ventures to either setup distributorships or manufacturing facilities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The details of the project are as follows:

(i) **Andhra Pradesh Health Sector Reform Programme**

The project cost is £ 40 million/Rs. 320 crores (£38 million for the budget support of Andhra Pradesh Health Sector Reform Programme and £2 million for Technical cooperation). The grant will start from the date of signing of MoU and will end on 30th June, 2010.

(ii) **Orissa Health Sector Plan**

The DFID support will be for £ 50 million/Rs. 400 crore (£47.50 million for the direct budget support for the implementation of Orissa Health Sector Plan and £2.5 million for Technical cooperation). The project has to be approved and MoU to be signed. It will commence only thereafter.

(iii) **Madhya Pradesh Health Sector Reform Programme**

The project cost is £ 60 million/Rs. 480 crore (£56 million for the budget support of Madhya Pradesh Health Sector Reform Programme and £4 million for Technical cooperation). The project has to be approved and MoU to be signed. It will commence only thereafter.

(iv) **National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) 3**

The NACP3 is pooled by the DFID and World Bank in order to achieve two strategic objectives (a) Achieving behaviour change by scaling up programmes to prevent new infections in high risk groups and the general population; and (b) increased care support and treatment of people living with HIV.

DFID funds of £102 million/Rs. 816 crore will be pooled with the World Bank, out of which, £7 million will be for technical assistance. This includes £5 million for contracting a technical resource to support the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) to deliver NACP 3 and the remaining £2 million will be channeled to support the first UN Joint Support Plan for HIV/AIDS in India.

(d) A number of British companies that visited India as part of the Healthcare Mission in January, 2007, have either signed joint ventures with Indian companies or are pursuing discussion with potential Indian partners.

Those that have signed joint ventures include:

- The Health Protection Agency UK, which has signed a royalty-bearing license with the Serum Institute of India to develop a pentavalent vaccine for India and developing countries for bacterial meningococcal disease;
- Practical Business Solutions, which has signed an MoU with ZWA Technology in Mumbai to deliver an emergency medical services programme in India; and
- The UK Royal College of Physicians, which has delivered a pilot course to a private sector hospital in Kerala.

British companies that are pursuing discussion with their Indian counterparts include the University of York, Eschmann Holdings, Tenscare and Smiths Medical International.

Private sector participation in rail projects

*271. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to invite private sector to participate in railway projects in the country ;

(b) if so, which are the areas the Railways have identified for the private sector participation; and

(c) whether his Ministry has ensured to maintain public sector character when private sector is allowed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Certain areas such as development of important identified stations, setting up of manufacturing units for rolling stock, infrastructure projects for port connectivity through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) and several activities in catering/tourism and hospitality area have been identified for possible execution through public private partnership route.

(c) Yes, Sir. The basic objective of the public private partnership initiatives is to strengthen the Railways and improve services to customers. These do not entail any dilution of the public sector character of Railways.